# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

### (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>W3666-003 JA | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See Form PCT/PEA/416 |
|---|---|---|

| International application No.<br>PCT/SE2004/001617 | International filing date *(day/month/year)*<br>08.11.2004 | Priority date *(day/month/year)*<br>07.11.2003 |
|---|---|---|

International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC
G06F17/30

Applicant
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1.  This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2.  This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3.  This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

    a. ☒  *sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau)* a total of 5 sheets, as follows:

    ☒  sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

    ☐  sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

    b. ☐  *(sent to the International Bureau only)* a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s))  , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

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4.  This report contains indications relating to the following items:

    ☒  Box No. I      Basis of the opinion
    ☐  Box No. II     Priority
    ☐  Box No. III    Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
    ☐  Box No. IV     Lack of unity of invention
    ☒  Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
    ☐  Box No. VI     Certain documents cited
    ☐  Box No. VII    Certain defects in the international application
    ☐  Box No. VIII   Certain observations on the international application

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| Date of submission of the demand<br><br>07.09.2005 | Date of completion of this report<br><br>10.02.2006 |
|---|---|
| Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:<br><br>European Patent Office<br>D-80298 Munich<br>Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d<br>Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 | Authorized Officer<br><br>Bauer, R<br><br>Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7483 |

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## Box No. I    Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   ☐   This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language ,
   which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
   ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
   ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
   ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the **elements\*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

   **Description, Pages**

   1-11                           as published

   **Claims, Numbers**

   1-14                           filed with telefax on 07.09.2005

   **Drawings, Sheets**

   1/3-3/3                        as published

   ☐   a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐   The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
   ☐ the description, pages
   ☐ the claims, Nos.
   ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
   ☐ the sequence listing *(specify)*:
   ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing *(specify)*:

4. ☐   This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
   ☐ the description, pages
   ☐ the claims, Nos.
   ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
   ☐ the sequence listing *(specify)*:
   ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing *(specify)*:

   \*   *If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."*

**Box No. V** Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: | Claims | 1-14 |
| | No: | Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: | Claims | 1-14 |
| | No: | Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: | Claims | 1-14 |
| | No: | Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

   **see separate sheet**

Foreword

The amended claims do not go beyond the original disclosure, as new independent claim 1 results from a combination of original claim 1 and two features extracted respectively from original claim 2 (amended claim 1, p 12, l 28-31) and from the originally filed description (p 9, l 24-28).
Similar amendments were made to independent claim 8 and the dependent claims have been adapted.

The feature "changing the display language of the display means" has been interpreted, in the light of the description, as changing the displayed language on the display means.

1.  Cited documents :
    D1:  WO 01 43482 A1
    D2:  IP LOCATOR, SOFTWARE INFORMATION, [Online] XP002984149 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www.filehungry.com/index.php?ac tion=viewitemdetails&id=7049> [retrieved on 2004-11-01]

2.  D1 is considered to be the closest prior art document. D1 discloses a system and method for communicating information about products and services to a mobile station, based upon the location of the mobile station, by interrogating a database containing both a description and location, i.e. geographical, information (D1, p 14, l 4-21).
    The mobile station and the database are connected over a data network.
    The mobile sation has input means to input a query (see p 8), and display means to display the results send by the database.
    At the database, the geographical location of the user is identified, and using this information, the response is assembled.

    The only feature defined in claims 1 that is novel is that the processing unit is adapted to automatically change the displayed language.

3.  This feature is not inventive.

D1 describes that a user would use the mobile station in an unfamiliar city, and would ask for services.

It is well-known in the field of information processing, and particularly when designing user interfaces, that it is of advantage to be able to provide information in different languages.

A skilled person would implement such an improvement whenever needed.

As there are no technical details provided in the description, it must be assumed that the implementation of this feature is straightforward, i.e. does not require any inventive activity.

4.  As to claims 4 and 10, it has to be noted that one way of determining geographical relevance of information stored on servers is to use (a part of) their IP address.

Claims 2, 3, 9 define features that do not translate into any technical features. Hence they do not contribute to inventive step.

Claims 5 and 11 pertain to the choice of a language without entering any technical details, so as to adapt to the user's language, and hence, as explained in point 3, their subject-matter is not considered inventive.

Claims 6, 7, 12-14 do not define any technical details that can be seen as inventive : apart form the non-inventive features of claim 1, they merely recite well-known storage means.

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## CLAIMS

1. A database system, comprising:

a user terminal (18) having input means (10,12) and visual display means (14);

5        a processing unit (21) and a storage medium operatively connected to said terminal (18) via a computer network (22),

said storage medium including a database (20) comprising:

10        an address register (30) for storing address information, such as name, address, telephone and telefax numbers, of suppliers, such as legal and/or natural persons;

a product register (40) for storing information

15  relating to articles and/or services;

control information (50) for linking records (32) in the address register (30) to records (42) in the product register (40);

wherein said system provides structured access to

20  said address information for a user via said input means (10,12) and visual display means (14),

**characterized** in that

the database (20) comprises geographical information (33) for controlling which information of the database (20)

25  that is transmitted via the computer network to the terminal 18 and displayed on the visual display means (14), ~~and~~

the processing unit (21) is adapted to provide access to information provided by each supplier with the

30  geographical information covering the identified geographical location for said user,

the processing unit (21) is responsive to user input via said input means (10,12):

to identify the geographical location of said user,

35        to put together resulting information by associating information of the product register (40) with information

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of the address register (30) being associated with the
geographical information (33) covering the identified
geographical location of the user, and

5    to transmit the resulting information to the terminal
(18) to be displayed on the display means (14), wherein the
processing unit (21) is further adapted to automatically
change the display language of the display means (14).

2. A database system according to claim 1, wherein
10   said address register (30) is adapted to store geographical
information associated with each supplier for said limited
access, wherein the processing unit (21) is adapted to
provide access to information provided by each supplier
with the geographical information covering the identified
15   geographical location for said user.

3. A database system according to claim 1 or 2,
wherein the geographical information corresponds to the
whole world, one or more continents, one or more regions,
20   one or more countries, or another limited area.

4. A database system according to any preceding
claim, wherein the geographical information is a part or
parts of the Internet Protocol (IP) address space
25   associated with each supplier.

5. A database system according to any preceding
claim, wherein the database (20) stores information
associating languages used in different countries or
30   regions, and the processing unit (21) is further adapted to
automatically change the display language of thea user
interfacedisplay means - for displaying said accessed
information - to a language used in the area of the
identified geographical location, immediately when the user
35   is connected to the database.

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6. A database system according to any preceding claim, wherein the database (20) is stored on permanent storage medium, such as an optical data carrier, which is

5   locally connected to the processing unit (21).

7. A database system according to any preceding claim, wherein the database (20) is stored on a medium physically separated from the processing unit (20), said

10  medium being accessible via a local or global computer network.

8. A method of interrogating a database (20) in a database system, said database comprising an address

15  register (30) for storing address information, such as name, address, telephone and telefax numbers, for suppliers, such as legal and/or natural persons; a product register (40), comprising information relating to articles and/or services; control information (50), by means of

20  which records (32) in the address register (30) are linked to records (42) in the product register (40); and a database engine (100) providing structured access to said address information, **characterized** by the steps of:
    calling the database engine (100) with a database

25  request for a product via input means (10,12) of a user terminal (18) of said database system (20),
    responsive to user input to a processing unit of said database system via said input means (10,12):
    identifying the geographical location of a calling

30  user; ~~and~~
    provide access to information provided by each supplier with the geographical information covering the identified geographical location for said user,
    accessing all suppliers providing products, where

35  geographical information associated with the suppliers

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covers the identified geographical location of the user,
from the product register (40), the supply register (50),
and the address register (30),

putting together resulting information by associating

5    information of the product register (40) with information
of the address register (30) being associated with the
geographical information (33) covering the identified
geographical location of the user, and

transmitting the resulting information to the

10   terminal (18) to be displayed on <u>and automatically changing
the display language of the</u> display means (14) of said
terminal (18).

9. A method of interrogating a database (20)

15   according to claim 8, wherein the geographical information
corresponds the whole world, one or more continents, one or
more regions, one or more countries, or another limited
area.

20   10. A method of interrogating a database (20)
according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the geographical
information is a part or parts of the Internet Protocol
(IP) address space associated with each supplier.

25   11. A method of interrogating a database (20)
according to any of the claims 8-10, wherein the display
language of a user interface - for displaying said accessed
information - is automatically changed to a language used
in the area of the identified geographical location,

30   immediately when the user enters the web page.

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12. A computer program comprising program
instructions for causing a computer to perform the method
of any of the claims 8-11.

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13. A computer program on a carrier and comprising
computer executable instructions for causing a computer to
perform the method according to claims 8-11.

10    14. A computer program according to claim 13, wherein
said carrier is a record medium, computer memory, read-only
memory or an electrical carrier signal.

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